

### GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR *Dr. Lisa Seldomridge*

#### **Continuing Excellence in the Nursing Department!**

*The 2011-2012 academic year was another sensational year for SU nursing – with the University's first doctoral program underway, the Henson Medical Simulation Center opening, a record number of grant awards, outstanding faculty scholarship and fantastic student achievements! Let me share a few examples:*

#### **• Our first cohort of post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) students began in fall 2012 with graduation expected in spring 2015.**

As the University's first doctoral program, the D.N.P. addresses the growing need for nurses in advanced-practice roles with special skills in managing complex health needs in a cost-effective and collaborative manner. The curriculum, delivered in a distance-accessible format, emphasizes the use of evidence-based practice and technology to guide administrative and clinical decisions, as well as policy development. Students in this cohort have backgrounds as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, educators, and nurse executives.

#### **• \$1.079 million from the Maryland Higher Education Commission for DNP curriculum development.**

Announced in summer 2012, this three-year award provides funding for development of post-master's D.N.P. coursework in a distance-accessible format as well as supporting creation of a B.S.-to-D.N.P. option projected to start in 2015. With the Institute of Medicine call to double the number of doctorally prepared nurses by 2020 and limited availability of doctoral programs in the state, SU is the perfect location for this new degree option (PIs: Drs. Seldomridge & Parsons).

#### **• The official opening of Henson Medical Simulation Center in December 2011 and announcement of a \$1 million dollar gift from the Richard A. Henson Foundation**

to extend the use of high fidelity simulation and standardized patients. This project started with a \$937,000 grant from the Maryland Hospital Association Who Will Care program. With a focus on creating alternative clinical experiences in the specialties of labor/delivery, high-risk newborn, critically ill children and adults with psychiatric disorders, the "Sim Center" activities support expanded enrollments in the 2nd B.S. Program. Additionally, to improve retention in all programs, a Best Practices for Nursing Success course is taught each semester.

#### **• Creation of the Eastern Shore Faculty Academy and Mentoring Initiative (ES-FAMI) to train clinical experts as adjunct clinical faculty.**

This three-year collaboration between SU, Chesapeake and Sojourner-Douglass Colleges provides a solution to the nursing faculty shortage by providing a 30-contact hour program of online and face-to-face instruction, simulated clinical teaching sessions, and mentoring workshops. Academy attendees learn how to design and manage student clinical experiences, learning theories, and principles of evaluating student performance. The ES-FAMI experience emphasizes recruitment of a culturally, ethnically and gender diverse group of faculty who are available to teach part time for one of the partner schools (PIs: Drs. Hinderer, Jarosinski, Reid & Seldomridge).

#### **• Hospital clinical faculty positions continued at Peninsula Regional Medical Center.**

After receiving a \$635,601

grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission Nurse Support Program to develop these positions, both SU and PRMC were so pleased with the collaboration that the decision was made to continue two positions at PRMC. Individuals holding these positions supervise SU nursing students two-three days per week during the academic year and work in the hospital education department two-three days per week.

#### **• Faculty development grants to increase confidence in use of simulations.**

SU received \$25,000 from the Maryland Hospital Association for specialized training on the use of simulators in maternal/newborn care (PI: Dr. Nutt).

#### **• \$335,000 in scholarships from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration for students studying to become nurse practitioners.**

The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship grant for the 2012-2013 academic year are up to \$22,000 per year per eligible full-time student, and \$11,000/year per eligible part-time student. Trainees may use funds for stipends, textbooks, tuition and fees. Licensed professional nurses with B.S. degrees in nursing who meet the criteria below are eligible to apply (PI: Dr. Parsons).

#### **• A new D.N.P. in the house.**

Dr. Kerry Palakanis completed her degree in spring 2012 at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. A family nurse practitioner, Dr. Palakanis recently opened the Crisfield Clinic providing health services to citizens in Somerset County, MD. Dr. Palakanis joined the faculty in 2011.

#### **• Employee of the Month.**

Carmel Boger was selected for this honor in February 2012. She was recognized for her attention to detail and courteous, friendly and personalized service as well as her masterful handling of 2nd B.S., Master's and D.N.P. program queries and files, and assistance with multiple grants.

#### **• New faculty in the department.**

Erica Alessandrini, M.S. CRNP (SU-B.S.-1996), a family nurse practitioner, who is teaching undergraduate health assessment, community health clinical, and working with FNP students in adult and women's health management; Kayna Freda (SU-M.S. 2011, B.S.-2007), who is teaching beginning and advanced adult health clinical and introduction to professional practice; and Nancy Smith, M.S., CRNP, a family nurse practitioner and specialist in high-risk infants, who is teaching undergraduates in pediatric, maternity and newborn care.

#### **• New staff on the team.**

Thalia Van Opstall-May, clinical simulation specialist, joined the staff in July 2011; Tysha Staten, B.S., program management specialist joined the staff in September 2011; and Edith Hooke, B.S., was hired in August 2012 in a new administrative assistant position to support the D.N.P. Program.

#### **• Fond Farewell to Dr. Karen Badros and Dr. Cathy Walsh,**

who officially retired July 1, 2012. (Read more on page 3.)

## PRE-NURSING LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Nursing Department launched a new endeavor in the fall – our first Pre-Nursing Living-Learning Community (LLC). The LLC concept is something that SU embraced several years ago to fully immerse students in the college experience. Students in the Pre-Nursing LLC live together in the newly renovated Wicomico Hall, share three common courses during their freshman year, and participate in both fun and service learning activities as a group. The hope is that these students will bond with one another, be successful in their academic courses, and develop a strong social and support network – a network that will follow them after the LLC experience is behind them and they move on to their sophomore year of study.

It appears that this goal was a success, as the majority of these first LLC students opted to remain roommates for the next year. The true test of the LLC's success will come when the students apply to the nursing program for fall 2013 and we see how many of them are accepted into our highly competitive nursing program.

The Pre-Nursing LLC kicked off the year by moving into their dorm a couple of days ahead of the rest of the freshman class. Their first night on campus was spent as a group, eating pizza, playing ice-breaker games and getting to know one another. The



following morning, the group headed out on their first adventure to Crisfield, MD. The director of the Tawes Museum took them on a walking tour of Crisfield and provided the students with an overview of the culture and industry in the area. They had the opportunity to watch soft shell crabs as they were packed for shipping and to see the crab pickers cleaning hard shell crabs. From there, it was on to Linton's Seafood, where they

learned how to clean and eat their own hard shell crabs. After lunch, everyone headed out to Jane's Island State Park for an afternoon of kayaking in tandem kayaks. It was an excellent practical example of the teamwork that would be required for our students to enjoy a successful and fulfilling academic career. Some examples of other activities students participated in throughout the year included a health-issues movie night, holiday celebrations and a service-learning project where they collected and tagged bears for Coastal Hospice patients. They also joined together with students from other Henson School LLCs for an ice cream social and a boat trip to Assateague Island.

This year the Nursing Department is excited to have a second cohort of 22 new Pre-Nursing LLC students. Nursing faculty for the LLC are Drs. Vonnie Brown, Katie Hinderer and Rita Nutt.

# FACULTY NEWS

## PRESENTATIONS

**Dr. Mary DiBartolo** presented a poster at the 24th Annual International Alzheimer's Conference held July 14-19 in Vancouver, BC. It was titled *Using the Club Concept to Target Behavioral Issues in a Residential Setting for the Cognitively Impaired*.

**Drs. Debra Webster & Dorothea McDowell** presented on the topic of *Emphasizing Evidence: Preparing New Nursing Graduates to Shape the Future of Nursing Practice* at the Maryland Nurses Association 108th Convention, October 13, 2011, in Annapolis, MD.

**Drs. Dorothea McDowell & Debra Webster** presented on the topic of *Integrating Quality Improvement Content throughout the Curriculum* at the QSEN National Forum held in Tucson, AZ, from May 30-June 1.

**Drs. Brenda Mister, Judy Jarosinski, Katie Hinderer, Tina Brown-Reid, Lisa Seldomridge** & Maija Anderson (Sojourner Douglass) presented at the Fourth International Nurse Educator Conference in Baltimore, MD. The conference was held June 17-20 and the title was *Addressing Clinical Faculty Shortages through Collaborative Partnership: Creating a Clinical Nursing Faculty Academy in Rural Maryland*.

**Drs. Katie Hinderer** & Robert Joyner (SU Health Sciences Department) presented at the Fourth International Nurse Educator Conference in Baltimore, MD. The conference was held June 17-20 and the title was *Building Our Future: Multi-professional Critical Care Education*.

**Drs. Katie Hinderer** & Robert Joyner (SU Health Sciences Department) presented at the 2012 American Thoracic Society International Conference in San Francisco, CA. The conference was held May 18-23 and the title was *An Initial Experience with an Undergraduate Critical Care Course*.

**Dr. Kerry Palakanis** presented at the 27th National Conference of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners held June 20-34th in Orlando, FL. It was titled *Can Your Patient Fly?*

**Dr. Laurie Rockelli** and Richard Bearman presented *Peer Connection: A Unique and Uniquely Effective Program for People Wrestling With Co-Occurring Disorders* at the 42nd National Mental Health and Addictions Conference, Chicago, IL, April 15, 2012.

**Drs. Laurie Rockelli, Debra Webster and Lisa Seldomridge** presented *Nursing Education and Innovative Practices and Methods for Nursing Research: Use of Standardized Psychiatric Patients to Teach Therapeutic Communication Techniques to Baccalaureate Nursing Students in the U.S.* at the Eight U.S.-Russian Nursing Conference Cruise in St. Petersburg-Moscow, Russia, August 5-6, 2011.

**Dr. William Campbell** spoke recently at the National Conference on Civil War Medicine in Hagerstown, MD, on the topic "Hospital Stewards and Their Relationship to Nursing." While often thought of as the pharmacists, hospital stewards were, in fact, nursing supervisors of the Civil War nurses. Campbell also spoke on "Civil War Medicine and the Impact on Healthcare Today" for the Nabb Research Center, at Salisbury University. In addition to displaying a portion of his Civil War collection, Campbell also appeared in uniform as a Union hospital steward.

## PUBLICATIONS

Campbell, C. J.\* & **McDowell, D. E.** (2011). Computer literacy of nurses in a community hospital: Where are we today? *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 42(8), 365-370 [\*Carlene Campbell - 2010 M.S. graduate in the Clinical Nurse Educator track (article based on required capstone project)]

Clarke, C. & **Parsons, M.** (2012). Psoriasis in adolescents: Diagnosis is usually made based on clinical appearance, but a skin biopsy may be required. *Advance for NPs & PAs* (online), 1-5.

**DiBartolo, M. C.**, Salimian, F., Kotteman, J. E., & DiBartolo, G. R. (2012). Engaging baccalaureate nursing students in statistics. *Nurse Educator*, 37(4), 145-146.

**Hinderer, K. A.** (2012). Reactions to patient death: The lived experience of critical care nurses. *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*, 31(4), 252-259.

Jeffers, L. A.\*, & **DiBartolo, M. C.** (2011). Raising health care awareness of sexually transmitted disease in patients over age 50. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 20(4), 285-290. [\*Lisa Jeffers - 2004 B.S. (Nursing) & 2008 M.S. in Family Nurse Practitioner Track (article based on required capstone project)]

Sebach, A.\*, & **McDowell, D.** (2012). Developing a tissue donation advocacy program in a rural emergency department. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 38, 63-68. [\*Aaron Sebach - 2008 B.S. (Nursing) & 2010 M.S. in the Clinical Nurse Educator Track (article based on required capstone project)]

**Webster, D., Seldomridge, L. A., & Rockelli, L.** (2012). Making it real: Using standardized patients to bring case studies to life. *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing*, 50(5), 36-41.

## OTHER FACULTY NEWS

**Dr. Karen Badros** was the 2011 Henson School recipient of the Faculty Appreciation Award. This award recognizes faculty that have provided dynamic classroom instruction, made a positive impression and exhibited attributes graduates can take with them into their careers. It is voted on by alumni and presented at the December commencement ceremony each year.

**Dr. Mary DiBartolo** was promoted to full professor effective August 15. DiBartolo also earned NLN certification as a nurse educator in September.

### We Love to Hear from You!

Send any news or updates to:  
Edie Hooke, elhooke@salisbury.edu

Visit our Web site:  
www.salisbury.edu/nursing

# GLOBAL EXPERIENCES ON THREE CONTINENTS

Faculty in the Nursing Department continue to increase cultural awareness of students by providing nursing opportunities in countries of three continents: Tanzania, West Africa; Ecuador, South America; and Jingzhou, China.



### Tanzania

During winter 2012, a group of SU students (nursing, respiratory therapy and health education) traveled to Tanzania, Africa, led by faculty Dr. Tina Brown Reid. The group spent two and a half weeks on a service learning study abroad experience with Global Service Corps' HIV/AIDS Prevention Program and Sustainable Agriculture Project. This was the sixth trip to Tanzania for the Nursing Department.

The trip to Arusha, Tanzania, entailed an intensive orientation to the culture, customs and language lessons in Swahili during the first week. The following week was spent preparing for and teaching groups in the villages about HIV/AIDS prevention and education.

In many areas of Tanzania, food and water shortage is a serious problem. With this in mind, students participated in learning how to make sack gardens and build rainwater catchments, hafirs. Training families with limited space and resources on how to build sack gardens provides them with a sustainable means of growing vegetables and improving their diets. Without water, it is impossible to grow gardens and keep livestock alive. Building a hafir, water storage trench lined with plastic, can collect enough rainwater to maintain a garden and/or sustain livestock through the dry season. These activities are just a few of the many experiences in which students have the opportunity to participate.

### Ecuador

Dr. Vonnie Brown is planning to take a group of nursing students to Cuenca, Ecuador, in January, 2013. There are still available spots for this educational event. Highlights of the experience include tours of Gualaceo and Guayaquil, a hike in the Cajas national park, a weekend visit to the community of Saraguro (including a visit to the shaman), teaching sessions at the CEDEI school, and a day with the Nursing Department at University of Cuenca.

If you're interested in spending a busy two weeks in Ecuador in 2013, contact Dr. Brown at 410-548-4784. This course is open to graduate students and registered nurses as well.

### China

Dr. Dorothea McDowell is planning to take students to Yangtze University in Jinghou and to Beijing, China, in May 2013. This two-week trip includes visits to eastern and western medicine health care facilities, as well as, excursions to The Great Wall, Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. The plan is to leave after spring commencement, around May 21, 2013, and to return around June 3, 2013. Current nursing and health-related field majors, as well as registered nurses and graduate students, are welcome to apply. Dr. McDowell can be contacted at demcdowell@salisbury.edu.

Information on all upcoming SU study abroad opportunities can be found at: [www.salisbury.edu/intled/StudyAbroad](http://www.salisbury.edu/intled/StudyAbroad)

# CLASS NOTES

**Renee Bounds ('99)** works as charge nurse on the skilled rehabilitation unit at William Hill Manor in Easton. She also is employed as a PRN substitute nurse at the Caroline County Health Department. She lives in Preston, MD.

**Lisa Jeffers ('04 B.S., '08 M.S.)** was selected the winner of the 2012 MEDSURG Nursing Nurse Competence in Aging Writer's Award for her recently published article (with Dr. Mary DiBartolo) on the topic of health care provider awareness of sexually transmitted diseases in patients over age 50. She will receive complimentary registration to attend the AMSN Annual Convention planned for October in Salt Lake City to accept the award.

**Kayna Freda ('05 B.S., '11 M.S.)** and her husband Matthew Trader welcomed Reverdy Samuel on June 24, who weighed in at 6 lbs., 7 oz. While Kayna is experiencing her new role in motherhood, she also is beginning in her new role on SU faculty in a full-time tenure track position this fall.

**Katie McGrath ('07)**, who graduated in May 2011 with her master's in nursing education from Towson University, earned her OCN (Oncology Nursing) certification. She also is engaged and her wedding is September 23 in Elkridge, MD.

**Krista Hintze-Smith ('08)** was married to Brett Smith on December 3, 2011, in Princess Anne, MD, where they reside.

**Kelly Sneckenberger ('11)** was offered a position on the transplant unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and has been working there since last October.

## A DOUBLE FOND FAREWELL



Dr. Karen Badros was among the founding faculty of the nursing program, beginning her career at SU in fall 1978. She served as department chair for 11 years, was interim dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences for one year (1995-1996), and directed the graduate program for almost six years. During her 34 years at SU, Dr. Badros facilitated five accreditation reviews, started the accelerated 2nd B.S. Degree Program and streamlined the family-nurse practitioner program. Dr. Badros taught undergraduates in health assessment, maternal/newborn care and internship. She also taught graduate students in quantitative research.

Dr. Cathy Walsh joined the SU nursing faculty in 1988 and was the first and longest-serving associate chair of the department from 1996-2003. Dr. Walsh taught undergraduates in health promotion/wellness, introduction to professional practice, nursing technologies, health assessment, research, community health and internship. She also taught graduate students in nursing theories, and qualitative and quantitative research. Dr. Walsh facilitated two CCNE accreditation reviews and was a long-standing member of the University Committee on Human Research.

Our beloved colleagues are continuing their remarkable legacies as half-time Professors of Practice.